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FM AMCONSUL LAGOS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8473
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA PRIORITY 8301
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY 0115
RUEHCD/AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ PRIORITY 0095
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 0102
RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO PRIORITY 0116
RULSDMK/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAHL/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH AFB UK PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 000087

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/W
STATE FOR INR/AA
WARSAW FOR LISA PIASCIK
CIUDAD JUAREZ FOR DONNA BLAIR
ISTANBUL FOR TASHAWNA SMITH
SAO PAULO FOR ANDREW WITHERSPOON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/06/2017
TAGS: [CASC](#) [EPET](#) [KDEM](#) [NI](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#)
SUBJECT: SITREP 9: HOSTAGES REMAIN CAPTIVE; GOVERNMENT
AGREES TO PAY RANSOM

REF: LAGOS 76

Classified By: Consul Alan Latimer for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

¶1. (C) On February 5, American citizen Bill Graham told Pivot employee Wole Osinupebi the negotiation process should conclude as soon as possible because British national Neil Mirrlees's condition is very weak. John Walker of Control Risks Group could not confirm delivery of the Oral Rehydration Therapy for Mirrlees. (Reftel)

¶2. (C) State Security Service (SSS) Director Alhaji Kola Adeshina told Walker on February 5 that Governor Ibori has decided to conclude the hostage negotiations despite Federal policy prohibiting ransom payments. This decision was made in light of Mirrlees's condition, according to Adeshina. Ransom payment was contingent on the condition that it never be publicly mentioned; Adeshina warned Osinupebi would be arrested if it became known.

¶3. (C) According to Walker, Adeshina said he would arrange for the hostages' release once he had the full naira 20 million ransom (approximately USD 156,000) in hand.
BROWNE